

WASHINGTON, DC---Today, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security recognized Congressman Earl Blumenauer's (D-OR) strong voting record on efforts to strengthen Medicare and preserve Social Security. Blumenauer received a score of 100% on the Committee's scorecard, which evaluated thirteen key votes in the House and Senate during the first session of the 107th Congress.

Among the votes highlighted by the Committee were Blumenauer's support for a Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors, his insistence on protecting the Social Security Trust Fund from irresponsible spending and his stand against the tax cuts in the summer of 2001.

"Support for older Americans has always been an important part of my public service and I will continue to push Congress to protect Medicare and Social Security," said Blumenauer.

Blumenauer has spent much of the 107th Congress fighting to assure geographical equity in Medicare reimbursement. The current regional inequity means that hospitals and health care professionals in Oregon at risk of being unable to provide the most up to date treatment and the most effective care for Oregon seniors. Despite the fact that everyone pays the same Medicare taxes, the outdated Medicare formulas do not equally reimburse for health care costs. Under the current, outdated Medicare reimbursement system, Oregon and 34 additional states receive Medicare reimbursements below the national average.

Additionally, Blumenauer continues to push for an open discussion of the Social Security privatization proposals promoted by President Bush and Republican members of Congress.